AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please **AMEND** claims 2-7 as follows.

A copy of all pending claims and a status of the claims is provided below.

1. (original) A method for evaluating a material body by a scattered light observation system which observes a gel state or a gel-formable sol state material body illuminated with a coherent light through a two dimensional image recognizing means, characterized in that a gel state or a change in sol-gel state of said material body is evaluated based on the conditions of a light section formed on the image forming surface or conditions of the speckle pattern.

2. (currently amended) The method for evaluating a material body according to claim 1, wherein the material body is a gel shape food article or a gel-formable sol shape food article ~~(including a drink)~~, and its quality and change in quality are evaluated.

3. (currently amended) The method for evaluating a material body according to claim 1~~ or 2~~, wherein a member having at least a part through which irradiated light can permeate is intervened between the material body and the aforementioned two-dimensional light observation system.

4. (currently amended) The method for evaluating a material body according to claim 1~~, 2 or 3~~, wherein wavelength of the irradiation light is within the range of from visible light to near infrared.

5. (currently amended) The method for evaluating a material body according to claim 2~~, 3 or~~ 4, wherein the released state of water existing in a sealed and packaged product of the material body is detected.

6. (currently amended) The method for evaluating a material body according to claim 1~~, 2, 3, 4 or 5~~, wherein the material body is put in a dynamic state.

7. (currently amended) A device for carrying out ~~the~~ a material body evaluation method ~~described in claim 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6, characterized in that the~~ comprising a material body constituting at least one row in ~~the~~ a transverse direction against a moving direction, ~~the~~ a light irradiation device which irradiates a light having at least one spot shape or line shape section traversing ~~the~~ a moving direction ~~(this may be~~ fixed to or separated from a light irradiation photographing device prepared by arranging at least one of ~~the~~ two-dimensional image recognizing means[[)]] or at least one of them is moved by a moving means, thereby carrying out scanning measurement of almost full face or full face of each material body which can be observed in ~~the~~ a photographing direction of the two-dimensional image recognizing means.